



Council for Lifelong Learning
Sunshine State Standards

**Fact
Sheet**

September 2001

<p>1. What are the Sunshine State Standards?</p>	<p>The Sunshine State Standards were developed by the Department of Education (DOE) in 1994 to give parents, students, teachers, and school administrators a clear understanding of what skills and competencies Florida students should have in seven subject areas at certain stages of their school career. These standards are high levels of expectations for student achievement in Florida public schools for grades Pre-K to 2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.</p>
<p>2. What subject areas are covered in the Sunshine State Standards?</p>	<p>Sunshine State Standards subjects include mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, the arts, health and physical education, and foreign languages.</p>
<p>3. Why are the Sunshine State Standards necessary?</p>	<p>The State Board of Education, the Florida Legislature, parents, teachers, and school administrators have been working to return to a system of high standards. A necessary part of returning to teaching high standards is to establish a clear picture of what students are expected to know and to measure student progress. The Sunshine State Standards are the foundation for a system of high standards and levels of achievement. With established standards at four combined grade levels, students can be monitored academically as they develop.</p>
<p>4. How will students know that they are meeting the standards?</p>	<p>Students will be given the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). The FCAT is a combination of criterion-referenced and norm-referenced components designed to measure how well students are learning the skills and competencies outlined in the Sunshine State Standards. FCAT tests are administered in grades 3-10. (See the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Fact Sheet.)</p> <p>Students enrolling in the 9th grade in the fall of 1999 and thereafter must earn a passing score on the 10th grade FCAT in order to graduate with a high school diploma. Assessments for each grade level must be capable of measuring each student's mastery of the Sunshine State Standards for that grade level and above, and must measure the annual progress of mastery of the Sunshine State Standards.</p>
<p>5. How were the Sunshine State Standards developed?</p>	<p>The DOE began developing the Sunshine State Standards in 1994 with the help of teachers, school administrators, business leaders, nationally-known education experts, and representatives of professional organizations. Extensive</p>

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	<p>research and development was conducted on content, competencies, and instructional practices culminating in the Sunshine State Standards in early 1996. The use of the Sunshine State Standards as the foundation of student performance and the FCAT as the tool for evaluation and demonstration of those standards, were passed into rule by the DOE.</p>
<p>6. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 229.565, F.S. -- Educational evaluation procedures Section 229.57, F.S. -- Student assessment program</p> <p>Rules 6A-1.09401, F.A.C. -- Minimum student performance standards</p>
<p>7. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Division of Public Schools (850) 488-2601 www.firn.edu/doe/</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Council for Lifelong Learning (850) 414-6694</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Innovation (850) 488-7451</p>